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BILL NO.: **HB 494**

TITLE: Public Safety – Police Athletic League Grant Fund –
Establishment

SPONSOR: Delegate Jackson

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 15, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 494 - Public Safety - Police Athletic League Grant Fund - Establishment. This legislation would provide grant assistance for Police Athletic Leagues (PAL) programs.

PAL centers provide essential after school and summer programs that encourage youth to play and exercise. Baltimore County currently has nine PAL centers supporting more than 950 registered members. Baltimore County Executive John Olszewski has continuously advocated for more funding for recreational spaces across the County understanding that these centers are an upstream investment in the County’s children providing support beyond the classroom.

This legislation would increase funding for PAL centers, providing all communities equitable access to recreational facilities. This would greatly benefit communities across the state of Maryland by bringing them together in a communal space to engage in athletic events and youth-oriented programs at no cost to members. As communities begin to return to in person activities, HB 494 will ensure that PAL programs will be funded and ready for use.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 494. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.